

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190024

FOR AMB. ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 17409 ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO
LONDON USNATO JUL 25.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17409

FOR S/AR - AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON FROM OXMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS - YOUNG ARTICLE ON SOVIET USE OF OCEAN LAW

1. AS REQUESTED, REVIEWED YOUNG ARTICLE. IF ELIZABETH
YOUNG EVEN IN PART REFLECTS OFFICIAL BRITISH THINKING,
THERE MAY BE STRONG CONTRADICTORY POLICY CURRENTS
BETWEEN US. MORE TO THE POINT, WHAT IF SOVIETS SUSPECT
SUCH THINKING BY U.K. ANDMS.?

A. U.S. ANALYZES LOS POLICY ON BASIS GLOBAL STRATEGIC
CONSIDERATIONS. IN TERMS OF WORLD VIEW, YOUNG ANALYSIS
COULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN FOR KING CANUTE.

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B. U.S. POLICY BASED ON VIEW THAT U.S. INTEREST IN
OCEANS NOT BASED ON ZERO-SUM ANALYSIS, AND ALSO THAT
U.S. HAS INTEREST IN REDUCING AREAS OF POTENTIAL
FRICTION AT MARGINS WITH USSR. YOUNG ADVOCATES
IMPOSING NEW RESTRICTIVE REGIMES ON SOVIET ACCESS
ROUTES, WITHOUT EXPLAINING HOW AND WHERE SOVIET SHIPS
WOULD BE ORDERED ABOUT, AND HOW OR WHERE "NATO" WOULD

DEAL WITH SIMILAR RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY COASTAL STATES OUTSIDE NORTHWESTERN EUROPE ON WESTERN SHIPS AND TRADE.

C. YOUNG SEES U.S.-SPONSORED PRO-NAVIGATION PROVISIONS OF ICNT AS DAMAGING, AND WOULD SEEK WAY TO SIDETRACK EMERGENCE OF LOS TREATY ON THESE GROUNDS. SHE DOES NOT EVEN DISCUSS DEEP SEABEDS, BUT PRESUMABLY WOULD CONCUR IN USING ANY CONVENIENT ISSUE TO SABOTAGE LOS TREATY.

2. ONE CANNOT HELP BUT NOTE THAT U.K. AMBASSADOR ARCULUS IN RECENT MONTHS:

A) SAID U.K. HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN LOS TREATY (IMPLYING LITTLE INTEREST IN PROTECTING NAVIGATIONAL FREEDOMS);

B) SUGGESTED POSSIBLE SOVIET STRATEGIC CONCERNS IN WESTERN GAP UNDERLAY SOVIET CONTINENTAL SHELF POSITION;

C) RESISTED U.S. SUGGESTION THAT U.K. AVOID MAKING ANY UNILATERAL CLAIMS IN STRAITS;

D) TOOK VERY HARD LINE MINING INDUSTRY POSITION ON DEEP SEABEDS MINING QUESTIONS, OPPOSING EVEN THOSE COMPROMISES WORKED ON BY US' (THIS DESPITE GREATER U.S. INTEREST IN DEEP SEABED CONFIDENTIAL

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MINING AND GENERAL LABOUR SENSITIVITY TO ODC ATTITUDES.)

3. BRITISH MINISTER HERE CONFIRMED THAT YOUNG DOES HAVE ACCESS TO WELL-INFORMED OFFICIALS. SEPTTEL ON CONVERSATION WITH SOVIETS ON SHELF WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE RELEVANCE OF ABOVE POINTS TO SOVIET POSITION. TOON

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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